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# MAKE YOUR IRONING EQUIPMENT LAST

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Ruth Van Deman, Bureau of Home Economics, and Wallace Kadderly, Radio Service, U.S.D.A. Broadcast in the Department portion of the National Farm and Home Hour, Tuesday, December 15, 1942, over stations associated with the Blue Network.

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WALLACE KADDERLY: Again today our slogan is "Make'em Last." And Ruth Van Deman's here to tell us how to make our household ironing equipment last for the duration or longer. For, as we know, the metals and materials that went into manufacturing electric irons and other tools to make the job of ironing easier, are now going into bombs, shells, planes, and instruments of war.....So there we are, Ruth.....all ready for you to organize us into a conservation corps.

RUTH VAN DEMAN: That's a thought, Wallace....Conservation Corps for Victory...CCV's for short. We need to conserve everything down to the dustpan and the broom. But of course it's good sense to start with the things that save labor, like washing machines and electric irons.

KADDERLY: They were the first pieces of household labor saving equipment to be curtailed in manufacture...and the factories converted to war production.

VAN DEMAN: But our need for clean clothes...well ironed clean clothes doesn't grow any less. In fact the grease and grime of war jobs is making clothes dirtier.

KADDERLY: And some of us are going to have to do more pressing at home...on trousers and clothes in general. Many of the cleaning and pressing establishments have more business than they can handle, with so many of their experienced operators gone to war.

VAN DEMAN: Yes, the electric hand iron has a wartime job cut out for it. Beside the household ironing and pressing, many a girl leaving home to take a war job packs her electric iron in her suitcase.

KADDERLY: And when she plugs the iron in at her new quarters, do you suppose she always checks first on the current...to be sure it's right for her iron? You know she could burn out a good iron mighty easily if she got it on direct current (D.C.) for instance, when it was built for alternating current (A.C.).

VAN DEMAN: Yes, I know she could. And 'twould appear, Mr. Kadderly, that you've been reading our new leaflet "How to Make Your Ironing Equipment Last Longer."

KADDERLY: No, not yet.

VAN DEMAN: That caution about the right current for the iron heads the list of pointers on how to get longer, better service from an electric iron. Another is: Always attach the plug to the iron, before you plug the cord into the wall outlet. And follow that same order when you're disconnecting it. If you do it the other way around, the prongs on the iron are likely to

(over)

spark and crackle when you slip the cord over them.

KADDERLY: That "sparkling" is bad for the metal of the iron, isn't it?

VAN DEMAN: Yes, it eats into the metal...may even make it necessary to replace those prongs on the iron....those terminals as the experts call them..

KADDERLY: And I notice you said, Ruth, "before you plug the cord into the wall outlet." Isn't that taking it for granted there'll be a wall outlet handy?

VAN DEMAN: I know that's too good to be true, always. But it's much safer and easier on the electric wiring to plug an iron into a wall outlet than into an electric light socket especially on a drop cord. Those connections aren't built to carry the amount of current it takes to operate an iron. It creates a fire hazard.

KADDERLY: Some serious fires have been started too when people forgot and went off leaving the electric iron connected.

VAN DEMAN: Yes, it's well to get the disconnecting habit. It saves accidents..and electric current..when the doorbell or the telephone interrupts the ironing. Some irons have thermostats to keep them from overheating. But even so they go on using up current unless the thermostat is set to the "off" point.

KADDERLY: Dropping an electric iron, isn't any too good for it either, is it?

VAN DEMAN: Very bad for it. There's a rather delicate mechanism inside an electric iron. A nasty fall may get that out of kilter. And the smooth flat face of the iron- the sole plate - can't do its best job if it's scratched and dented.

KADDERLY: The plug on the cord of an iron is something else that doesn't take kindly to being dropped and knocked about.

VAN DEMAN: And the cord doesn't like to be yanked out of the socket. That may loosen the tiny wires that carry the current .

KADDERLY: In other words, pull the plug by taking hold of the plug, not the cord.

VAN DEMAN: Like lifting a puppy by the scruff of its neck, not it's tail.

KADDERLY: Same idea. The electric cord may "bite" by giving you electric shock if you handle it the wrong way.

VAN DEMAN: And another little thing to watch out for that may have big consequences is: Avoid touching the cord with the iron while it's hot. The heat injures covering and insulation....makes an accident hazard....and damages materials hard to replace.

KADDERLY: And something else I've had drilled into me is this. Coil the cord loosely when it's not in use. Or if it's detachable from the iron, hang the cord over a peg or a couple of nails driven a little way apart. The idea is not to let the wires in the cord bend sharply.

VAN DEMAN: Yes, that's another way to keep the cords doing duty. And Wallace, I think we covered the highest points on keeping irons and ironing machines in service.

KADDERLY: Didn't You bring along a copy of the new folder on ironing equipment...how to make it last longer?

VAN DEMAN: Gracious yes. I almost forgot. It's right here in my bag.

KADDERLY: Shall I offer it to our Farm and Home friends?

VAN DEMAN: Yes, certainly. This is a companion piece to the ones on refrigerators....washing machines...household rubber articles...part of a "keep 'em lasting" series for wartime.

KADDERLY: And any one of these or all four are available to any homemaker who wants them?

VAN DEMAN: Yes any one who sends a post card to the Bureau of Home Economics, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., and asks for the folders on care of household equipment.

